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No. 333



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THREE STATES FINALLY AGREE ON COMMISSION TO CONTROL MURRAY

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 17 Oct 81 p 3

[Article by Rodney Frail: "Murray Agreement Is Reached After 8 Years"]

[Text] Melbourne.--After eight years of negotiation the State Governments of NSW, South Australia and Victoria and the Federal Government reached agreement yesterday on new measures to reduce salinity in the Murray River.

The NSW Premier, Mr Wran, the Victorian Premier, Mr Thompson, the South Australian Premier, Mr Tonkin, and their ministers for water resources met in Melbourne with the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, and the Federal Minister for National Development and Energy, Senator Carrick.

The new agreement gives the River Murray Commission, which comprises representatives of the four Governments, new responsibilities for controlling and monitoring the quality of water.

Until now the commission has only had control over the quantity of water which flows down the river.

The commission will also assess the implications of new developments which could have a significant impact on water quality and develop new strategies to reduce salinity.

However, the commission still has no power to enforce water quality standards, which has disappointed the South Australian Government.

Mr Fraser said the new agreement would be the keynote of the Commonwealth's involvement with the three States in dealing with salinity problems in the Murray.

On the lack of real power he said: "I think we have got to assume that Government would act in good faith and not willingly or knowingly want to undertake any activity that is going to damage water quality."

The problems of critically high levels of salinity in the river and who causes it has been the subject of bitter debate over the years.

South Australia claims the NSW Government has allowed too many irrigation schemes along its part of the river, making it salty in its lower South Australian reaches. NSW has rejected these claims.

CSO: 5000/7511

ICUN PRESSURES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON BARRIER REEF

Melbourne THE AGE in English 24 Oct 81 p 1

[Article by Simon Balderstone: "Reef Should Be Declared Park Now: World Group"]

[Text]

CANBERRA. — The international conservation organisation, ICUN, has called on the Australian Government to give greater protection to the Great Barrier Reef by immediately declaring the entire area a marine park.

ICUN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, which has delegates from 54 Governments, expressed concern that in the six years since Federal legislation enabling a marine park was enacted, only 2.4 per cent of the region had been declared.

Delegates at the ICUN general assembly in Christchurch, New Zealand, voted unanimously yesterday for the immediate declaration of the entire park and urged the Australian Government to prohibit oil drilling in the reef region. One of the delegates was the head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs and Environment, Dr McMichael.

The ICUN decision puts more pressure on the Federal Government to resolve its territorial struggle with the Queensland Government, which is delaying declaration of the proposed second section of the reef marine park.

Queensland wants the park boundaries at least three nautical miles from the shoreline, but the Commonwealth is pushing for the

boundary to be at the low-water mark.

Even greater pressure will be brought to bear on the Federal Government next week when the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meets in Sydney to consider the Government's application to list the whole of the Great Barrier Reef region on the world heritage register.

The president of ICUN, Professor Mohamed Kassaf, said yesterday that the ICUN resolution was "timely" in view of the World Heritage Committee meeting.

ICUN is an independent scientifically-based organisation with more than 400 Government and non-government members from 10 countries. Members include the Governments of 54 countries and 114 Government agencies.

The two Australian delegates, Mr Graham Saunders, the director of the Queensland National Parks Service, and Dr McMichael, are believed to have objected to the original wording of the motion but agreed with amendments.

The reef motion was passed unanimously. It noted that the reef was not yet safe from oil drilling or mining and that further developments for tourism might prejudice plans for the marine park.

CSO: 5000/7511

GOVERNMENT HIT ON HYPOCRACY OF MINING ON PARKLAND

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 26 Oct 81 p 3

[Article by Nicholas Rothwell: "Move To Put Uranium Site on Heritage List Called Hypocritical"]

[Text]

THE Federal Government's nomination of Australia's Kakadu National Park for inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage List has been denounced by a conservation group as hypocritical.

The attack by the Friends of the Earth, which matches a strong broadside against the Government proposal to list the Great Barrier Reef, centres on plans by a Canadian company to mine a uranium deposit in the centre of the park.

The list is to be drawn up in Sydney today by UNESCO's World Heritage Commission at a meeting which will be opened by the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser.

Conservationists said last night that the nomination of the park, which surrounds the isolated Koongarra uranium mining site, was hypocritical because the park would be ruined by operations of the Canadian company, Denison Mines.

The Friends of the Earth have described the proposal as a mockery and called on the UNESCO commission to reject it.

ABORIGINES

The Koongarra site one of the "big four" Alligator River uranium finds, is believed to contain 1200 tonnes of uranium ore. It has already been the focus of a dispute between Aborigines and the mining company.

A spokesman for Friends of the Earth, Mr John Hallam, said the park should not be listed unless the Government guaranteed uranium mining would not occur in its centre.

"We feel that a national park with a uranium mine in the middle of it is not worthy of the name.

"The uranium from the mine will not do Australia any good because the market is already saturated with excess Australian uranium which cannot be sold because there is a world glut," Mr Hallam said.

The Ranger Uranium Environment Inquiry had strongly opposed mining at Koongarra and warned that even if other planned uranium mining projects in the region went ahead, Koongarra should remain untouched.

The Koongarra mine would be situated in the most beautiful area of the park.

ENGINEER GROUP CONSIDERS WATER PROJECTS STUDY

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 26 Oct 81 p 21]

[Text] The Australian Institution of Engineers is considering projects to improve Australia's water resources as a contribution to Australia's bicentenary in 1988.

Major flooding and damming of the Murray River, the Burdekin Dam, and northern and western areas of Australia are among ideas being suggested to increase the nation's water resources.

The institution's Queensland division chairman, Mr R. F. Bange, said the engineering profession has been considering ways in which Australia's bicentenary could be recognised in a fitting manner.

He said future development of Australia would be influenced profoundly by the availability of water.

"Water is our most valuable resource and its conservation and efficient use should make it a most suitable project for the bicentenary," he said.

"The sponsorship of a major undertaking of national significance and benefit to a wide cross section of the community is seen as one means of mobilising support and striking a responsive chord in Australians to celebrate this historic event."

He said water was essential to support population, food production, timber and fibre crops, mining and industrial projects.

As Australia was the world's driest continent the project would be vital to the nation's future.

Mr Bange said the Australian Science and Technology Council listed the following water resources priorities:

- Develop improved management practices, integrated with land use planning and management, to reverse trends in the deterioration of water quality and associated land resources.
- Devise improved practices to minimise water use and eliminate waste, and develop alternative water resources such as desalination, reuse, and the maximum use of water from high rainfall areas.
- Improve understanding of subterranean water resources, their sustained yield management and use.

BRIEFS

SALINITY STUDY--A major study covering agronomic and engineering solutions to salinity problems in the wheat-belt would begin next year, the Minister for Agriculture, Mr Old, said at the weekend opening of the Narrogin Show. The Department of Agriculture would study the water cycle in a catchment system partly affected by salt. He said that Wesfarmers would contribute \$40,000 to the research. The State Government wanted to find a long-term solution quickly to salt problems in reservoirs supplying towns in the Great Southern, particularly Wellington dam. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 19 Oct 81 p 58]

FUNDS FOR TASMANIAN WILDERNESS--Sydney--The National Trust says it has contributed \$5000 to the Tasmanian Wilderness Society and other interested groups for their campaign to save Tasmania's south-west wilderness. The Trust's deputy director, Mr Peter James, said that the money would be used to present a conservation-based view of the coming referendum on two hydro-electric power schemes. The referendum offers voters two options: They can support one of two proposals by the Hydro-Electricity Commission, either to dam the Gordon River below its junction with the Franklin River or to dam the Gordon above its junction with the Olga River. "The trust believes both proposals are unsatisfactory," Mr James said. "It is disgraceful that there is not a no-dams option. The lack of a no vote to both proposals will disenfranchise many Tasmanian voters." Mr James said that either dam would inundate wilderness areas of great value to Australia and the world. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 20 Oct 81 p 40]

CSO: 5000/7511

BANGKOK TO SEE WATER SHORTAGE BY 1985

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 26 Nov 81 pp 1, 8

[Text]

BANGKOK residents will face widespread shortages of water for consumption from 1985 onwards due to rapidly growing demand, and by the year 1990 the problem will be so critical that half of the population in the city will be without water supply, a senior official told *The Nation* yesterday.

The shortages will arise because the Chao Phya River will not be able to meet the growing demand for water, especially during the dry season, said Dr Pakit Kiravanich, deputy secretary general of the National Environment Board during an exclusive interview.

"Currently, the Chao Phya Dam in Chai Nat Province discharges 70 cubic metres of water per second to Bangkok or 6,048,000 cubic metres per day during the dry season, of which 40 cubic metres per second are used by the Metropolitan Water Works Authority for tap water supply," he said.

But by the year 1985, the demand for water of Bangkok residents will rise to 42 cubic metres per second. "When combined with a need for water to flush out sea water, the demand will rise to 82 cubic

metres per second which the Chao Phya River cannot supply," Dr Pakit said.

"The situation will be worse in 1990 when Bangkok residents will need 72 cubic metres of water supply per second, thus the total demand will rise to 112 cubic metres per second. There would definitely be serious water shortages," he said.

The only solution to this problem, he said, is for the government to develop new top-soil water resources as otherwise serious water shortages will be inevitable for Bangkok residents.

The solution includes construction of

reservoirs to store water during the rainy season for supplying to Bangkok during the dry season and irrigation of water from Mae Klong River to Bangkok, he said.

"We will submit all data to the govern-

WATER

ment which has the Water Resources Development Committee to decide," he said.

There seems no other alternative because if the Chao Phya Dam discharges more water for consumption in Bangkok, then farmers in the Central Plains will not have enough water for farming. "This will lead to more damage

to the country's economy," he said.

"Recycling of water will be very costly than construction of reservoirs or irrigation of water from other rivers to Bangkok. More importantly, people will not accept recycled water," he said.

Another solution is more pumpage of underground water for consumption. But Dr Pakit pointed out that Bangkok is facing a quick rate of soil subsidence and if more water is supplied from underground the city will sink more rapidly.

"This will be more serious and we are proposing to the government to ban the use of artesian well water to stop soil subsidence in Bangkok," he said.

Bangkok areas which subside more than 10 centimetres per year include Phra-kanong, Bangkapi, Huay Kwang, Prapa-daeng, Samut Prakam, Minburi, Bangpli and Lardkrabang. The location of Ramkhamhaeng University is now at the same level of the mean sea level which means that as soon as there are high tides the areas will

submerge under sea water," he said.

The areas which subside at the rates ranging from five to 10 centimetres a year include Bangkok, Dusit, Phayathai, Bangkok and Yannawa, Dr Pakit said.

The less critical areas which subside

less than five centimetres a year include Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani, and some areas of Samut Prakarn Province. Dr Pakit said his study does not yet cover Thonburi areas.

What is very serious is that the proposed site for Bangkok's second international airport at Nong Ngu Hao is on top of the list of critical areas. "If the airport will be built there, it must be designed to prevent floodings within a few years from now and construction costs will rise considerably," he said.

ANANT

psao-cha, who was accused of being one of the three gunmen who killed Sarayuth, were being contacted by police to persuade him to turn himself in.

Similar contacts were being made with another suspect accused of murdering Kamthorn Ratcharaj, an MP of Pattani, he said.

KHMER

200,000 troops from

Kampuchea if the coalition government could not be set up within the next two months.

Meanwhile, Vietnam yesterday advised Thailand and Singapore to reconsider their action in backing the proposed formation of a coalition government of Kampuchean resistance forces.

Radio Hanoi, monitored here, said in a commentary that in supporting the proposed loose coalition among the three main anti-Vietnamese resistance groups "Bangkok and Singapore" were joining hands with Peking and Washington to "oppose the three Indochinese countries."

Radio Hanoi said that "a limited number of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea

does no harm to the legitimate interest of Singapore, Thailand or any third country."

"Who allows Thailand and Singapore the authority to poke their noses into others' internal affairs," the commentary said.

CSO: 5000/4508

TRIBUNA ON PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Industrial Pollution

Prague TRIBUNA in Czech No 41, 14 Oct 81 p 4

[Article by Raimund Miksl: "Prevention Is Easier Than Cure"]

[Text] The industrial conurbation of Ostrava, as any other similar region of industrial concentration and a tempestuous development of technical production, was forgetting that it also constitutes the living environment for its inhabitants and that all production efforts are actually intended to provide the populace of the Ostrava region not only with a place in which to produce, but also a place to lead a happy life.

The first theoretical studies on environmental protection and conservation that became available as early as the sixties did not provide so much support as they did incentive for contemplating the nature of socialist environment and its building. In Ostrava there were people who adopted these ideas for their own and developed them in theory and practice to the extent that the conurbation of Ostrava became an acknowledged center for development of a socialist living environment.

At the beginning was a document with the unpretentious title "Chapters on Living Standard and Socialist Life Style." In November 1966 it was discussed at the plenary session of the North Moravian regional committee of the CPCZ and at the plenary session of the regional national committee and gradually became the basic documentation for devising measures in the environmental area for all ministerial departments, districts, educational, cultural and research institutions in the region and spurred formation of new ones.

The Document and the Prospects

On the whole it can be said that even though the outlined tasks have been essentially completed and have by now been met to a much higher extent than was expected, this document remains unmatched in its concept, approach, arrangement and subject matter. The compelling force of its example, the richness and potential of its ideas provide the energy for continuing these efforts in national committees where it has

long since become customary as a systematic effort and an integral part of five-year plans for the national economy which is purposefully focused on the most pressing problems of population centers' growth and meeting them head-on. For example, for the Sixth Five-Year Plan was worked out the Program for Protection and Continued Development of the Environment in the North Moravian Region and its central part--the industrial conurbation of Ostrava. It specifically expresses in figures the amounts for investment and noninvestment actions for individual plants and communities and provides an operational schedule primarily for the area of improving the quality of air, waters and cultivation of green acreage.

Similar comprehensive approaches are being adopted also by districts and by the city of Ostrava in particular, as it still faces the most complex situation. Satisfactory development of local efforts in the area of decreasing discharge of solid pollutants continued so that systematic decrease in the level of pollutants which was at its maximum in 1966 with 500 metric tons per square kilometer reached its minimum in 1971 with 290 tons per square kilometer and has remained at that level in spite of significant increases of production in steel plants and power plants and the construction of a cement plant in the city throughout the seventies. Also, through the initiative of environmental protection committees of national committees' councils, programs were worked out for the Sixth Five-Year Plan in the districts Frydek-Mistek, Prerov, and others, even in individual towns and cities, such as in Havírov.

At the same time Ostrava became the focal point for efforts of ministerial departments and activities of scientific and research institutes and institutions. With the support and systematic care of the regional CPCZ council, Ostrava instituted the now already internationally acclaimed Ekofilm film festivals which have become not only a source of information and education, but also represent a significant scientific forum for leading ecologists.

Contribution of Institutes and Schools

Efforts to develop a scientific approach to environmental planning led also in the case of Ostrava to the foundation and development of scientific and research institutes dealing with these problems, such as is, e.g., the Research Institute for Municipal Development and, in the past several years, the still meagerly equipped Institute for Ecology of Industrial Landscape of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences.

However, the sector of science and education, by a wide scope of research, educational and practical activities, has a far more significant impact on systematic motivation for improving the environment. For example, the Mining College in Ostrava has been systematically teaching since 1969 the interdisciplinary subject Introduction to Ecology and has devised a systemic model and environment as part of state research in the Fifth Five-Year Plan.

Teaching of environmental subjects is systematically expanded to all the fields taught at the Mining College, to include postgraduate studies, and the school has compiled an outstanding record in dealing with environmental themes in its students competitive papers and theses.

Similarly, the professors and docents of the pedagogical faculty in Ostrava devote their attention to environmental topics, specifically to the conurbation of Ostrava; their works having even earned them a solid position internationally in the framework of research conducted in CEMA countries.

It also ought to be pointed out that among the first to introduce specialized teaching of ecology was the faculty of natural sciences in Olomouc. This is a deed which is not only meritorious, but also daring and offering a promising option, the needed implementation of which failed to make the transition from the planning stage into practice elsewhere.

The North Moravian region has long since become a traditional meeting place for specialized symposia and nationwide conference of specialists dealing with environmental topics.

The Wrong Way of Managing the Economy

Environmental problems were last pointed out by the 16th CPCZ Congress which in its resolutions concentrated these problems for the first time from various chapters into a comprehensive whole. The resolutions of the congress conveyed the message that efforts will have to be developed to: systematically care for forest growth, prevent further pollution of waters, increase the responsibility of relevant organs for systematic supervision of compliance with regulations and decrees regarding environmental protection and educate the public so that environmental protection becomes the concern of every citizen. These objectives also apply in full measure to the needs of the North Moravian region and of the Ostrava conurbation.

Control of relevant measures is the vested legal jurisdiction of national committees. However, compatible intertwining of the interests and obligations of ministerial departments with the interests and obligations of national committees is still an unsolved and key problem, whereby economy is a prime factor in its resolution.

It is not possible to unilaterally make it easier for ministerial departments to meet their economic quotas or favorable foreign exchange profits if it is done at the expense of damage--possible irretrievable--to our environment. On the contrary, balance and ecological stability are a guarantee of economic profitability to our economy and prosperity of our environment as a whole.

Thus, for example, utilization of burdensome and harmful refuse and wastes, be they of residential or industrial origin, is often a very profitable measure toward curbing imports, and even production of systems for protection of the environment can become a profitable export article.

As an example, plants of the North Moravian region generate annually a total of 20,147,725 tons of various refuse, of which oils and fats amount to 15,236 tons, rubber refuse (tires, etc.) 4,000 tons, plastics 2,435 tons, glass 12,361 tons, scrap wood 139,862 tons, etc.--mentioning at random only substances that can be profitably utilized directly by the producer. At the same time, from the total amount of 20 million tons, only 65,000 tons are used for generation of heat, 7,900 tons are incinerated, the organization for metal scrap and raw material salvage buys out 1,220,600 tons, 7,388,255 tons go for other uses and dumpsite storage includes 11,456,416 tons.

No country can afford this kind of management of materials. This involves utter waste of economic assets, destruction of the environment for the protection of which we have very thorough ministerial regulations and decrees as well as organs charged with this control and enforcement of compliance. And with all that we keep complaining that the environment and its protection is an expensive affair which we can ill afford.

Example Provided by a Friendly Country

The German Democratic Republic has a system of economic tools which provides the basis for assigning to each industrial sector the so-called equivalent for utilization of secondary raw materials and demand on basic materials for production is tied to utilization of a certain proportion of raw materials from refuse.

In addition, environment in the GDR is cared for at national committee level by an environmental department which occupies a special position among the other departments in that its head is a leading official of the national committee (as a rule, one of the deputy chairmen) who manages this department through a secretary who is usually a specialist, an ecologist with university or college education. The department has at its disposal and maintains administrative jurisdiction over organs that have specific jurisdictions in care for the environment (hygienic inspection, inspection of water and atmosphere, state protection of nature), coordinates their activities and provides specification of their tasks on the basis of resolutions reached by the plenum and the council of the given national committee.

The comprehensive law for protection and furtherance of the environment (for which there still is no equivalent in the CSSR) is called the law for planned formation of a socialist cultural landscape (or landscape culture) in the widest sense of the word as socialist living and working environment for man. On this law are based other sectoral laws and laws concentrating sectoral activities, which in the CSSR often tends to take the easier course for meeting of economic objectives without regard to the impact on environment.

Search for New Approaches

Lately, our problem assuming the significance of an ecological disaster has been the gradual dying off of forest growth in the Beskydy Mountains shared in by the industrial activity of the conurbation with still unexplained causes.

There is an obvious connection with the increase of pollutants from the industrial conurbation of Ostrava. The Ecological Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Ostrava succeeded in designing and patenting a system for desulphurization of combustion gases which from the viewpoint of investment, production and operation is substantially cheaper and, mainly, more efficient than comparable systems with which capitalist companies make profitable business worldwide.

The institute also designed machinery for utilization of tires with a viable production price and a system for purification of waste waters from large agricultural production plants. Expediter teams are being formed for implementation of other interesting projects from science and research, such as, e.g., an expediter team in the Chemopetrol plant for utilization of oil wastes that cover a large storage area and endanger purity of the river Oder below Ostrava.

Support of the efforts of such work teams by national committees and political organs represents a decisive contribution toward meeting the tasks promulgated by the 16th party congress--incorporation of all members of the working public into care for the environment.

Agricultural Pollution

Prague TIRBUNA in Czech No 44, 4 Nov 81 p 4

[Interview with Prof Dusan Zachar, engineer, doctor of science, corresponding member of the Slovak and Czechoslovak Academies of Sciences, by reporter Ivana Machova: "We Must Think of the Future"; data and place not given]

[Text] Formation and protection of the environment under the current conditions are becoming from day to day an increasingly pressing task. Development of agricultural mass production poses some very serious problems (logical and necessary as this development is), as they involve protection of waters, purity of the atmosphere, etc. Therefore, we requested one of the foremost experts in this field, Prof Dusan Zachar, engineer doctor of science, corresponding member of the Slovak and Czechoslovak Academies of Sciences, to clarify some of the most pressing problems.

[Answer] The key problem for agricultural mass production and the environment is constituted--with a view to continuous intensification of agriculture--by the necessity for further concentration of production, introduction of large-scale farming and, finally, continuing increases in the amount of agricultural chemicals. Understandably, this tends to create certain conflicts. Increases in the amount of artificial fertilizers can cause, for example, the soil and plants to fail to absorb excessive amounts, with the unabsorbed excess seeping from soil into water. The same applies to chemical substances used as plant pesticides. A combination of these and other factors ultimately results in disturbing the natural balance, suppression of some natural elements at the expense of others, acceleration of harmful processes (soil and plant burn due to precipitated water, decrease in the soil's contents of humus, compacting of soil by heavy vehicles, etc.).

The overall decline and its economic consequences are antithetical to our efforts as, on the one hand, we endeavor to increase production and, thus, provide for improved quality in meeting the material needs of society, while, on the other hand, we encounter conflicts in the area of protecting nature, in the area of water pollution or pollution of nutrients by various harmful substances. That results in a negative feedback on man and we are forced to invest additional amounts to eliminate all harmful effects.

The fact remains that this area is plagued by many problems. If we consider that the extent of agricultural acreage is constantly decreasing (over the past 30 years its decrease per capita was from 0.65 to 0.45 hectare, i.e., by approximately 30 percent in 30 years), then we must strive to increase production by approximately 1 percent annually. Soil properties have been deteriorating as a result of industrial pollution. Damage has been done to approximately 570,000 hectares of soil, i.e., 12 percent of the total extent of arable land. This leads not only to

decreases in production itself, but also to infesting nutrients with harmful substances. Water management represents a particularly specific area. On fully one-third of the territory it will be necessary in the future to improve the quality of water, because its dangerous polluter happens to be particularly agriculture (I have in mind specifically seepage of chemical substances from soil into ground and subterranean waters). It need not be emphasized that the cost of investments for purification in recycling water is high.

Thus the essence of the conflict we face is constituted by the fact that we should be able to increase agricultural production with a simultaneous curbing of the harmful effects of mass-production forms of farming.

[Question] You pointed out that excessive use of industrial fertilizers endangers the quality of subterranean and surface waters. It is also a known fact that continuous increases in amounts are not economical. Why is it that agricultural enterprises which determine fertilizer amounts on the basis of soil and plant analysis are still so few and far between?

[Answer] Each soil has a certain sorption capacity. We cannot consider soil alone apart from plants and determine amounts of artificial fertilizers on that basis. Moreover, each plant has different demands for nutrients. Thus, amounts introduced into soil must be compatible. If we fail to maintain the requisite adequacy, excessive amounts of chemical substances will not be retained in the soil. This leads not only to large economic losses, but also to pollution. The main key to solving the problem consists in optimizing amount with a view to soil, type of farming and agricultural crop. Routine use is already being made of field laboratories which determine amounts on the spot and soil samples need not be sent for complicated analyses to distant laboratories. So, it is possible to determine the optimum amount. Of course, another fact is that an agronomist, even if he is familiar with the whole situation, for one reason or another may not be able to order a given fertilizer. It stands to reason that here come into play also other factors which cause failure to maintain the optimum amounts. As a result, there occur enormous deviations, it is expected that the yield will increase (e.g., increased amounts of nitrogen were expected to produce increased yield while, in fact, its overuse produced the opposite effect).

In watersheds, such as the Zelivka River basin, which is of decisive importance for supplying Prague with potable water, the whole situation manifested itself immediately by an increased contents of nitrates in both underground and surface waters. Due to such an infringement the nitrogen level ranges from 50 to 120 milligrams per liter, which many times exceeds the norm and produces an emergency situation. At the same time, it was proven that soils with permanent vegetation (meadow and forest growth) do not exceed a nitrate concentration of 0.6-1 milligram per liter even at increased amounts of nitrogen. The measures with which we are familiar are numerous, they can be directly programmed.

[Question] Is it possible to make interests of agricultural mass production compatible with environmental protection?

[Answer] The answer is an unqualified yes. Ecological optimization of landscape consists in increasing the productive capacity of soil and the productive capacity of the territory and simultaneous providing of support for other than productive

functions of the water basin. The objective is to have the soil profile hold as much water as possible without causing surface runoff. The more organic substances contained in the soil, the smaller the surface runoff and the higher the yield. No contradictory tendencies are involved. We can responsibly state that, in general, production increases must be accompanied by improved water conditions and there must be better utilization and bonding of all mobile nutrients which are either introduced artificially or are already contained in the soil. Disturbances, incorrect utilization, ignorance, underestimation of the problems cause--in some instances more, in others less--destruction and acceleration of negative processes. At the outset we had no experience. Now every year science brings an enormous amount of findings, for example, there is the international CREAMS program with its center for Europe in Vienna.

As regards the economic aspect, it must also be made to include overall losses. If we were to count "only" losses which, due to negligence, flow off by means of pesticides into streams, not to mention nitrates, increases in the price of artificial fertilizers, then economy would clearly lose to environment. Nobody has documented this fact as yet; there was no law, the farmer was not responsible for pollution. Now all the facts are being processed. Progress might have encountered a little delay, but it came just in time. And if we were to fail to recognize the critical situation in which we find ourselves and failed to make use of all possibilities and scientific findings, it would be for our generation not only a mistake, but also a shame.

[Question] What are the consequences for nature and, accordingly, for man, of ecological changes caused by agriculture?

[Answer] The consequences caused by agriculture consist primarily in acceleration of circulation of substances in nature. A substance which originally was to serve as nutrient for a plant becomes removed, due to the circumstances we talked about, into a water stream as a harmful substance. There it decays, because all biogenic substances--nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus--accelerate the growth of algae, plankton and other organisms contained in water. The water deoxidizes and becomes dead, worthless. Any regulatory processes have adverse effects not only on soil and agricultural crops, but also on water conditions. A much more aggravated situation arises when extremely mobile substances, such as the mentioned nitrates and phosphorus, seep through permeable substrate into subterranean waters which represent the most valuable source of high-quality potable water. I am thinking primarily of therapeutical mineral waters.

[Question] Is it possible to compare the risks posed for waters by agriculture with those posed by the industry?

[Answer] At the outset, industry with its waste waters was considered to be the prime polluter of waters and, thus, of the environment. And, at the present, it actually is. If we determine the sequence of various elements included in the scale of pollution of the hydrosphere, industry holds first place. Of course, in places where concentrated agricultural production is being introduced, the situation is aggravated by the fact that there is a continuing shortage of quality purification systems. Industry is at an advantage in this respect, because waste water processing is more and more becoming a matter of routine.

[Question] In all actions staged to promote formation and protection of the environment, relatively unequivocal conclusions are reached in regard to certain shortcomings of the agriculture in this area. However, the proceedings are rarely participated in by representatives of this sector. Why?

[Answer] We mentioned that technological discipline often fails to be maintained in agriculture. From there it is but a short step to the conclusion that authorities responsible for environmental protection bear their share of this unsatisfactory condition. We have often witnessed the fact that, for example, agrochemical plants do not participate in the relevant proceedings. The reason is not that they are unaware of their shortcomings, but primarily because they are afraid of being made the scapegoat, etc. However, in some respects that plant is helpless, because it is subject to other important regulations. Alas, the whole system of environmental protection has not as yet been perfected to the point where we could talk of perfect interlinkage from which, simply put, there would be no escape.

[Question] There are some unified agricultural cooperatives that are perfect. Some districts make viable advances. Does this herald the onset of a new stage of improved care for the environment by agriculture?

[Answer] The ministry of Agriculture started to deal with problems of care for the environment in 1972. In preparation at the present is an informative report regarding implementation of individual measures relating to environmental protection. It means that our highest authorities are fully aware of the importance of the whole matter. However, it is not always possible to correctly interlink activities in a single territorial unit--the structure has not yet been adapted to the extent that would facilitate a comprehensive approach to dealing with all problems and their implementation in a comparable scope. Many tasks remain unsolved, sometimes the situation is unexpectedly aggravated. For instance, it has been estimated lately that infestation of forests by pollutants in the CSSR amounts to 740,000 hectares. This causes multimillion damages not only in terms of timber alone, but destroyed vegetation promotes runoff of surface waters which, in turn, increases the danger of flooding, etc. The government is intensively dealing with the problem how to solve the whole situation.

[Question] There is often talk of the dispute generated by claims that, on the one hand, farmers are an obstacle to outdoor enthusiasts and, on the other hand, that outdoor enthusiasts ruin the environment. Is it possible to somehow overcome the incongruity between the productive and recreational function of the countryside?

[Answer] Increased demands on man in occupational orientation presume every man's right to regenerate his creative potential through recreation. Let us not interpret recreation in this regard as diversion, amusement, but as a necessary social activity which must be systematically developed. For that, of course, we must create the suitable conditions. Each settlement or industrial installation should provide recreational areas and facilities where everybody would be afforded the opportunity for daily, weekend, or a more prolonged form of recreation. It stands to reason that such opportunities are not provided everywhere. Still, I am of the opinion that the structure of agricultural landscape could, with an adequate amount of organization and discipline, provide recreation without causing any appreciable losses in production. This problem most definitely should not be left over to chance.

[Question] There is no doubt that environmental protection and the relation between agriculture and environment are primarily a political matter. This is borne out also by the words of the general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee and president of the CSSR, Gustav Husak, contained in his Report on Activities of the Party and Development of Society Since the 15th CPCZ Congress and other tasks of the party: "...Responsible organs must tighten control and reach appropriate conclusions against those who deliberately cause damage to the environment by gross negligence. Preservation of basic environmental values, of the riches of nature and the beauty of our country is the responsibility of all responsible agencies, a common cause of our people." Could you comment on what must be done so that this basic concept can be fully implemented in the current five-year plan?

[Answer] Environmental problems concern every single one of us. At a point where adversely affected environment endangers human health and development of future generations, solution of the whole range of problems becomes a matter of political and international significance. Our own government, which subscribes to progressive programs together with other socialist countries, interprets environmental protection and formation on that scale. Its program in this area is oriented toward large urban industrial conglomerations, points out the necessity for limiting damage to water basins providing potable water, the transportation network, etc. In all areas there is an ongoing implementation of tangible measures, devising of not just isolated, but comprehensive realistic plans and programs which represent the sum of individual efforts. To the extent that we succeed in improving discipline, organization and work discipline, we shall also succeed in reducing the extent of endangerment of our environment.

8204

CSO: 5000/3005

VOLATILIZATION PLANT SEEN THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 25 Nov 81 p 2

[Text] Potosi, 24 Nov--There is concern in areas bordering the La Palca low-grade mineral volatilization plant, 15 km from Potosi, about environmental pollution originating from that industrial complex which, after numerous delay, is beginning to operate at full capacity.

The plant has a smokestack 100 meters high from which toxic gases pour forth. But in the past few days, the community called "El Molino," located 500 meters south of the machines and furnaces, has been seriously affected; the flowers have begun to wilt, and some of the people have felt ill, according to our information.

Carlos Parent, parish priest of Tarapaya, a village near La Palca, who is also the director of the rural center of El Molino, sent a note to Lt Col Jaime Zeballos, prefect of the department, expressing the area residents' concern.

"The harm being done to human health has been clearly shown in the past few days, since many of the 39 persons residing in El Molino have begun to experience respiratory difficulties and digestive disorders," the note stresses. It then says: "Because of this situation, which is the result of poisonous fumes emanating from the La Palca volatilization plant, all the vegetation of this site and the surrounding area has suffered the harmful effect of the gases; at present, many of the flowers have died; subsequently, the gases will kill off the animals and then the people."

The La Palca plant's technical authorities have not yet been heard on this matter, and fear is now gripping Potosi itself, since the wind can carry the fumes in any direction according to the prevailing currents.

The area surrounding the industrial complex consists of valleys with vegetation, and the farmers are concerned about the pollution which, although the plant denotes progress, should first be overcome.

In this regard, the press has advised that the La Palca volatilization plant is experiencing a number of problems both in its operation and its transfer of technology and that the machinery manufacturers have apparently arrived in Potosi to conduct "experiments," thus showing that they are not fully confident of their technique.

8568

CSO: 5000/2029

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

CONTAMINATED WATERS--Oruro, 24 Nov--The mayor's office is concerned about contaminated water discharging into Lake Uru Uru and endangering the life of the fish; this fact was established by Dr Luis Diaz Matta, head councilman, and Raul Murillo, official technical chief. "Water with a high content of chemical products from the Huanuni, Morococala and Japo rivers and a mining company is jeopardizing the area's animal life; and this aspect is to be studied and resolved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Campesino Affairs, since that ministry has jurisdiction over this matter," Dr Luis Diaz Matta said. The overall situation was inspected yesterday by those two city officials with the aim of finding out what progress has been made in cleaning up the principal collector of the open-air sewage system, a task assigned to Empresa Prefa. The inspection also revealed that the north station of the National Railway Enterprise is causing discomfort and injury to area residents, for it is discharging its water containing diesel oil and other contaminants into the rain sewers, thus destroying the effectiveness of the system; this will be verified by the head councilman. [Text] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 25 Nov 81 p 5] 8568

CSO: 5000/2029

FISHERMEN BLAME CELLULOSE POLLUTION FOR REDUCED CATCH

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 22 Nov 81 p C 7

[Article by Iván Gajardo Rodríguez]

[Text] Constitución--Three hundred small fishermen in this town have an ongoing dispute with CELCO, as they maintain that ever since the industry began operating about 10 years ago, their catch has been reduced considerably as a result of the discharge of pollutants a few meters from the mouth of the Maule River.

Some experts have indicated that "the current carries the chemical waste over the sand bar into the river and that the flow carries it several kilometers, beyond the railway bridge called Banco de Arena." For José Marabolí, a shipping pilot, "CELCO, along with its benefits, is also causing serious damage to the marine and river environment. You no longer see mullets, pejerreys, whittings or 'toyos.' None of these fish can survive the acids reaching the banks."

Arauco-Constitución Celulosa is trying to solve the problem. Its executives have indicated that "they are using all the technical resources at their disposal to treat the sewage by filtering so that it will be relatively free from chemicals when it reaches the sea."

However, the fishermen are not convinced. Their production is almost nil. They have to travel great distances out to sea in order to find congers, hake and whiting. "Not to mention King mackerel. This species disappeared a short time ago from the waters of the Maule. It is hardly ever seen anymore." "With our small boats with outboard motors, we are also struggling against natural elements--the wind and the strong waves on the high seas. We drop our nets, just to come back empty-handed sometimes."

In Quivolgo to the North

To the north of Maule, in the Quivoigo-Putú area, the situation is also critical. The Humboldt current, which always follows the coast, carries the pollutants more intensively than in Constitución. In that area there are lagoons where the corrosive elements have collected and have killed off the machas [a South American mollusk].

For Juan Reyes, "a macha fisherman since birth," it is a serious problem. "It used to be easy to find them in the sand in this area. Now you have to walk kilometers to dig out a few dozen of them. They haven't been exterminated because of over-exploitation, but simply because they cannot survive the chemicals."

The congers and shellfish consumed in Constitución come from as far as Pelluhue (Cauquenes province). The abundance of fish in that region has not been reduced; on the contrary, it has maintained a high level. So much so that fishing schooners from San Antonio travel along the coast after black, golden and red congers. Twelve hours of work produces 20,000 kilos per vessel, which are then sold to merchants in Santiago.

According to its inhabitants, Constitución has a latent problem: how to get rid of the pollutants in the air and water in the area. "The air pollution is not so bad. The wind blows it away." But the water pollution is a serious problem. According to the fishermen, "sometimes the death of one fish leads to the death of others, causing the schools of fish to move further from the coastline." Those affected said that the reduction of the river fish population must be tackled seriously by CELCO leaders and by persons responsible for preserving the environment.

9805

CSO: 5000/2023

POOR CONSERVATION METHODS, DROUGHT THREATENS FARMING

Salisbury THE SUNDAY MAIL in English 20 Dec 81 pp 1, 13

[Article by Matthew Chandavengerwa: "Sabi Land Project Threatened"]

[Text]

COMMERCIAL farmers in Zimbabwe's Lowveld fear the collapse of the massive Middle Sabi agricultural scheme if uncontrolled streambank cultivation in the area goes unchecked.

And last week they called for urgent Government action to remedy the situation before it is too late.

The lack of control and proper conservation methods was leading to widespread erosion of river banks and the rapid silting up of large stretches of the Sabi and its many tributaries.

Silting at the present rate could force the Sabi to change its already tortuous course, rendering useless dams and irrigation systems which are the mainstay of agriculture in the dry land area.

Said Mr Mike Forrester, chairman of the local Intensive Conservation Area committee: "We ask the Government to take vigorous and decisive steps to put a stop to the situation. This is a matter of national survival."

Like Mr Forrester, most of the farmers in the area believe the siltation problems emanate from the central watershed communal areas of Wedza,

Rusape and Urungwe, the Sabi's main catchment area.

"If the situation goes on like this we might be forced to abandon this scheme in five to 10 years' time," Mr Forrester said.

The 6 000 plus hectares under irrigation are used for a double crop of cotton and wheat. They produce about 37 per cent of the country's wheat.

The Sabi Limpopo Authority, a parastatal body controlling dams including the Kyle and several irrigation schemes, is also worried about the situation but believes the farmers' fears are exaggerated.

An authority spokesman said that although the danger of the Sabi changing course was a real one, talk of the scheme having to be abandoned in as little as five to 10 years was a "bit over-dramatic".

Combating siltation — a direct result of erosion — meant a great deal of work for the Government because it stemmed from "reckless" farming methods among communal people most of whom have moved in on the river banks and started farming without making contours, another Middle Sabi farmer said.

Although most of the farmers agreed that education was part of the answer they felt it was almost too late to save the

situation.

Mr Johnson Nduna, the Manicaland North regional land inspector who accompanied us to Middle Sabi, said that land officers were visiting communal lands in the area distributing educational literature to the people.

"We are also giving them lectures on the evils of erosion and its effects on the future of their children," Mr Nduna said.

He admitted that there was a natural process of siltation, but "the rate at which it's taking place, especially along the Sabi, is a cause for concern".

The Sabi River is Zimbabwe's largest inland waterway — stretching from the Marandellas area and flowing southwards to its confluence with the Lundi on the south-eastern border.

It then cuts across the Zimbabwe - Mozambique border out to the Indian Ocean as the Save River. Some farmers believe the siltation could have been the cause of the floods that devastated crops in Mozambique's Gaza province.

Last year a large area of the Middle Sabi irrigation scheme was swamped when the Sabi broke its banks, damaging "thousands of dollars worth of cotton."

The chances of more such floods were increasing because of the

rising river bed. It is believed the river bed rose by about 57 cms last year.

The rising river bed also aggravated a drainage problem for the flat land farmers.

"We now have a situation where our drainage gradient is falling below that of the river bed, making it difficult for the water to drain off," Mr Forrester said.

An aerial survey of the Sabi showed that the water had turned chocolate brown.

The river's banks have widened and the silt has

been thrown up into mounds, forming a finger-like pattern of small islands.

The Sabi River has numerous tributaries, including the Nyanyadzi which draws water from the Eastern Highlands.

According to a report by Mr R. E. Jenkinson, deputy chief land inspector in the Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Rural Development, the Nyanyadzi water flow is being hampered considerably by bank and bed cultivation.

"The cultivated areas

range from 200 sq m garden patches to 3 ha plots. In some instances land is being cultivated in and on the river beds, on islands, flood plains and on steep banks down to the river's water level," says the report.

Another problem was the makeshift dams of stone and logs thrown up by the cultivators to water their lands and gardens.

The dams were diverting vital water from the Nyanyadzi irrigation scheme.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

When they settle on the sloping lands of river valleys the squatters cut down the trees and plant their maize by the river. This causes erosion within the Sabi tributary network and results in heavy siltation of the big river.

The Sabi River is a major supply of irrigation water for the vast agricultural schemes in the Lowveld. Over the years the river has caused anxiety among farmers in the area because of heavy siltation building up within the river bed. If this goes on the farmers believe the projects could be abandoned.

Irrigation schemes along the river are being threatened by obstructions on the tributaries set up by communal farmers. Little dams like this one on the Nyanyadzi River are a common feature.

Hunger Crisis as Rains Hold Off

BULAWAYO.

THE number of under-nourished children receiving free food ration packs in Matabeleland is likely to increase because of the late rains this season.

Children under the age of five received food aid under a \$2 million children's supplementary feeding programme which was initiated by the Government in December last year.

The programme, which was supported by interna-

tional aid, was to have lasted until April this year. It has since been taken over by the Ministry of Health.

The provincial co-ordinator for the programme in Matabeleland, Mr Jacob Thabane, said the nutrition situation in the province had greatly improved, but it was likely to deteriorate because of the late rains.

At the height of the programme about 18 000 children fell under the programme. This had been

reduced to about 8 200, half of the children being in Binga and Beitbridge.

Mr Thabane said the areas of concern were Binga, Wankie north, Tlootoo west, Tuli west and Beitbridge east.

The ministry was encouraging them to grow groundnuts and indigenous beans.

The ministry had already organised communal production plots of 0.4 ha and 100 such plots had been established in the province.

Farmers Fear Big Drought

ZIMBABWE could be heading for a serious drought, the Commercial Farmers' Union has warned.

The maize crop will be at least 30 percent down on last year's record-breaking harvest . . . even if good rains start soon.

"If we are heading for a drought it could be disastrous for the people of Zimbabwe," said acting CFU president Mr John Laurie last week.

He added that widespread rains were desperately needed by the end of this month.

The northern districts, which are the main crop areas, are worst hit. Some areas have had no rain at all this season — others have been dry for the past weeks.

The CFU last week compiled an around-the-country report:

- South-west Mashonaland: Badly wilting crops in severely dry conditions.
- Umtali and Eastern Highlands: Less critical but rains still needed.
- Marandellas: Poor maize with some cases of re-planting.
- Matabeleland and Mid-

lands: Desperate need for widespread rain to revitalise grazing.

- Victoria: Not serious yet.

Mr Laurie said the chronic lack of rain would have "serious ramifications" for the agricultural industry.

Farmers, who have to meet new minimum pay levels and rising costs, would also be hard hit.

"All of which could well lead to critical economic problems," he added.

The rains have been late and patchy which has prevented good crop germination.

General soaking rains are needed but there is no sign of the usual rain-bringing intertropical convergence zone which comes south over the Zambezi River.

"The prospects of general rains are not good at this time and this is of particular concern to the maize industry," said Mr Laurie.

FARMERS STILL WAIT FOR RAINS

Salisbury THE SUNDAY MAIL in English 27 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] **ZIMBABWEAN** farmers might have been festive this Christmas, but they have a lot to worry about.

The skies did not yield early enough this year, causing drought and damage to the tender crops. Some seed has not germinated because of crusted topsoils.

The chairman of the Commercial Farmers' Union, Mr John Laurie, estimated last Sunday that crop production would be 30 percent down on last year's.

And the chairman of the Commercial Grain Producers' Association, Mr Bill Francis, has estimated a 40 percent reduction on this year's crop production potential because of the prevailing dry conditions.

In a statement he issued jointly with the senior executive of the Commercial Oilseeds Producers' Association, Mr Bill Collett, he said: "For every day the rains are delayed, the maize harvest will be that much less. The situation is even more serious in the communal areas."

CONCERNED

His association was concerned at the late start of the season.

Unless there was "soaking" rainfall in the new year, total crop failure within the eastern

watershed area where the crops had reached pollination stage was likely, he said.

Mr Collett forecast a similar situation for the soya bean crop.

Hopes were raised briefly among the farmers last week when the weather satellites picked up the rain bearing cyclone Benedicte rolling steadily through neighbouring Mozambique on its way to Zimbabwe.

But only a day later another picture showed a stationary Benedicte just outside the Zimbabwean border.

"Benedicte could have brought a lot of torrential rains into this country but now we don't know," Mr Collett said.

MARKETING OF TOXIC CHEMICALS IN THIRDWORLD DEPLORED

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 31 Dec 81 p 6

[Editorial: "Time for Action"]

[Text] FROM time to time the United Nations or some other organisation reminds us of the potential health hazards stemming from chemicals and other substances often in everyday use.

A number of developed countries do, of course, have stringent regulations governing the sale and use of certain substances, such as pesticides. But unfortunately the market for some of these toxic chemicals remains open in many Third World countries.

DDT is a case in point. In the past year there has been a vigorous debate in Zimbabwe on the safety of this pesticide, and some extremely disturbing facts have emerged.

Yet the debate appears to have petered out without any final decision being taken by the Government on the future of the pesticide.

That DDT is a powerful factor in the struggle to control the tsetse fly and the mosquito there is no doubt. It may also be that it would be expensive in terms of foreign exchange to find an adequate substitute for the pesticide.

But should we be content to accept these reasons, and the suggestion that DDT will be phased out in within three or four years?

If the health of the people is at risk the Government has no alternative but to act, and to act quickly. The weight of evidence points to the need for a ban on DDT. Let us have it.

CSO: 5000/5636

BRIEFS

LACK OF RAIN--Maize planted on dry land is being hampered by the hot, dry weather. Agritex says rain is urgently needed in all areas--particularly the north and north-east. In its fortnightly report, the department says the start to the new season has been difficult in many areas. In the Midlands early dryland--planted maize crop is badly in need of rain and some seed maize growers have not planted fully because of this. The same situation prevails in Victoria where the early crop is tasselling and in Mashonaland Central the dryland crop is said to be "very droughted". Planting is not yet completed in north and eastern communal areas where some lands have yet to be ploughed. In Manicaland dryland maize is showing signs of moisture stress, but the situation is generally not critical. In Mashonaland East the commercial crop is mainly fair to good but needing rain. Some maize has not germinated in Mashonaland West because of the drought. Wide-spread replanting is taking place, particularly in the commercial sector. In most areas the crop is wilting. Livestock conditions are generally fair and improving in most areas where water supplies are adequate. [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 25 Dec 81 p 3]

CSO: 5000/5636

BRIEFS

DENMARK, SWEDEN POLLUTION STUDY--Denmark and Sweden will examine the causes for the worsened environment situation of the waters in the Kattegat and Skagerak. This was revealed after a meeting with the so-called Oresund Commission in Stockholm last week. The reason for this study is that there have been increasing reports in the last six months of oxygen depletion, algal bloom and fish kills in the area. The commission, which until now has worked with trying to find a solution to the pollution problem in the Oresund, will now follow developments also in the Kattegat and the Skagerak. This will be accomplished by such methods as exchanging of research results. "The problem is serious, with a wide range of consequences," said Valfrid Paulsson, director of the [Swedish] Natural Conservation Board, who participated in the meeting, as did his Danish counterpart, Jens Kampmann. In Denmark, increasing algae growth and fish kills have been confirmed around Djursland, near Langeland and Fyn, and in Vejle Fjord. In Sweden, it has been confirmed that the oxygen depletion in Laholmsbukten this year has spread to large parts of the Kattegat. Within an area of 1,500 square kilometers the oxygen content is so low that most of the sealife on the bottom has died. [Text] [Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 15 Dec 81 p 6]

CSO: 5000/2042

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